A8912-1
4/22/87

SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 1987

Contact: David L. Yowell
or Sally Shank
(918) 493-3516

MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of March, 1987)

According to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists' latest report, the number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters decreased by one crew from the previous month. The land crew total remained the same, and the marine crew total decreased by one crew.

The March total (150) represents a decrease of 1% from last month, a 38% decrease from March, 1986, a 61% decrease from March, 1985, a 68% decrease from March, 1984, a 66% decrease from March, 1983, a 77% decrease from March, 1982, and a decrease of 75% from the same month in 1981.

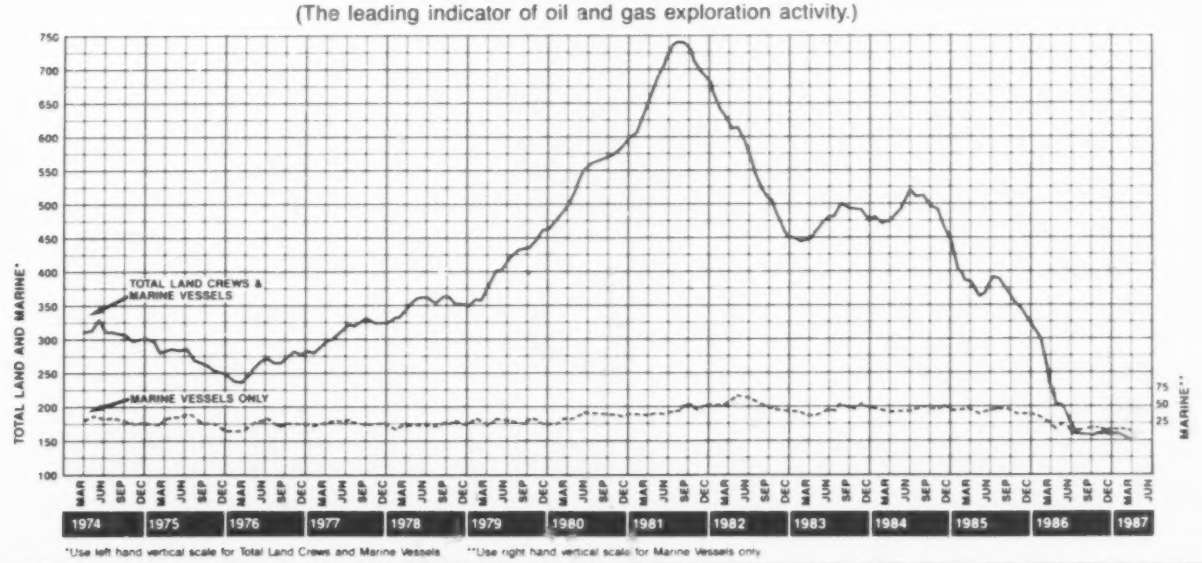
During March, two contractors were operating two of the 118 land crews and none of the fifteen vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	Mar.'86	Mar.'85	Mar.'84	Mar.'83	Mar.'82	Mar.'81
	150	151	240	388	471	447	649	610

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo	Last Mo.	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1985	Mar. 1984	Mar. 1983	Mar. 1982	Mar. 1981	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1985	Mar. 1984	Mar. 1983	Mar. 1982	Mar. 1981
36 Contr's:	118	119	185	306	386	360	554	529	15	16	23	40	39	38	45	33
7 Oil Co's:	14	13	27	34	38	42	43	41	3	3	5	7	8	7	7	7
1 Gov't.:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	132	132	212	340	424	402	597	570	18	19	28	48	47	45	52	40

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



*Use left hand vertical scale for Total Land Crews and Marine Vessels. **Use right hand vertical scale for Marine Vessels only.

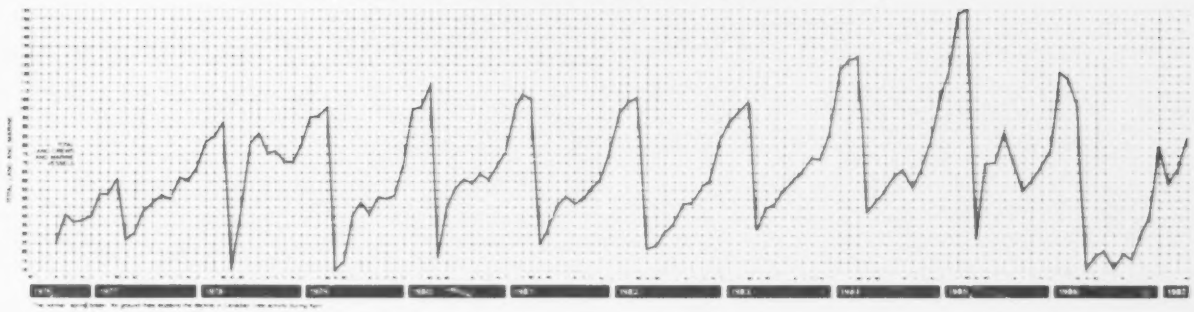
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

March, 1987 (February figures in parentheses)

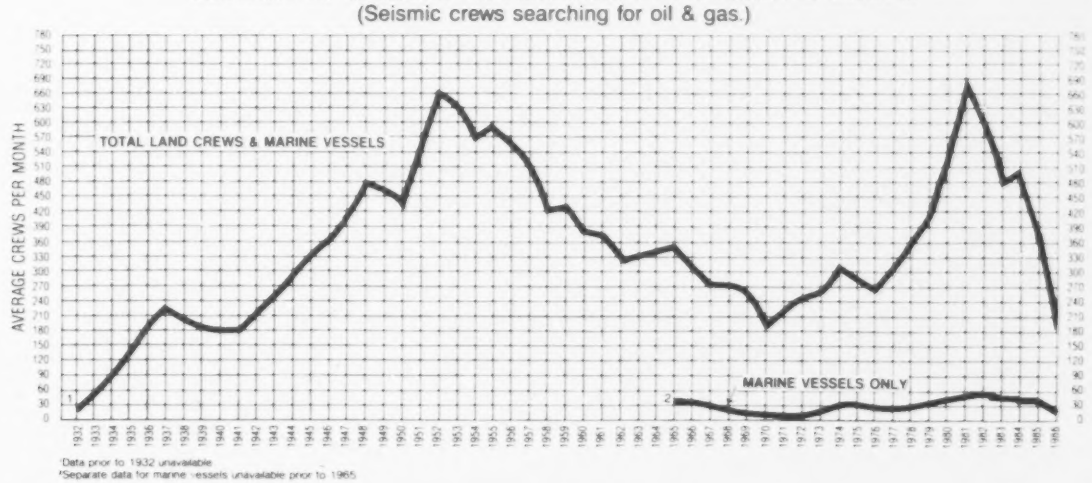
	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
28 Contractors:	82 (66)	0 (0)
1 Oil Company:	2 (2)	0 (0)
Totals:	84 (68)	0 (0)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed in part by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(Seismic crews searching for oil & gas.)



Data prior to 1932 unavailable
*Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1965